been paid their bills till 1099. The Member also submitted that the Chakai Railway station should be extended to the town. The next request of the Member was that substantial encouragement might be afforded to indigenous banking concerns. No doubt, sometime ago a loan was offered to a Quilon Bank, but the conditions laid down were such that the bank had to decline the offer. The scheme of a State-aided Bank should be brought into operation as early as possible. The representation of mercantile interests on the directorate should be adequate. The Government seemed to be obsessed with the idea that indigenous banking concerns should not have any voice in the management of that bank. It was a fundamentally wrong idea, and it had been vigorously criticised by the Economic Development Board. The Member thanked the Government for not accepting the proposal of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to enact a law restricting the freedom of Joint Stock Companies.

President's reply.—You suggest the organisation of a Department of Commerce and the appointment of a special officer at the head of that department. Your representation is noted for consideration.

As regards the loss entailed on account of the purchase of corrugated sheets for the Devaswom Department, the matter will be enquired into.

About the Railway from Kottarakara to the Cochin Harbour and about the State-aided bank, Government are unable to make any pronouncement at present.

As regards the delay in the matter of payments to certain contractors in Trivandrum, the Chief Engineer will be asked to make enquiries.

As regards the extension of the Railway into Trivandrum Town, that matter will be noted for further consideration.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

51. Roads in the Planting Districts.

Mr. E. T. C. Farr (Member, South Travancore Planters' Association) drew the attention of the Government to the bad condition of the last five miles of the Pattanapuram—Konni road and the urgent need for more permanent work being done there than the usual maintenance grant would allow. The work was estimated to cost Rs. 20,000 and a provision of Rs. 5,000 had been already applied for to commence the work. In view of the present state of the road and the probability of its becoming well-nigh impassable for vehicular traffic during rains, he regretted that the amount asked for was not sanctioned by the Government. He also referred to the bridge on the 8th mile on the same road which was dangerous for wheeled traffic. He said that the platform in particular stood in need of immediate repair. Lastly, the Member wanted to know whether any work was being done on the first three miles of the Vadasserikara-Lahai road, which was in utter disrepair.

President's reply.—As regards the Pattanapuram-Konni road, an estimate for Rs. 19,900 is ready for metalling that road. The Finance Committee has not approved of the work of it. The work will be provided for in the next year's budget.

Then as regards the bridge on the eighth mile in the same road, orders will be issued to the Division Officer to carry out that work.

As regards the three miles of the Vadasserikara-Lahai road referred to, the bad portions have been ordered to be repaired.

52. Kottayam—Kumili road.

Mr. A. R. St. George (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) urged the need for permanently maintaining certain portions of the Kottayam—Kumili road between Kottayam and Mundakayam in good order. He pointed out that, even after making every allowance for the very bad monsoon, that portion of the road between the 15th and the 31st miles had been entirely neglected. Peermade was dependent for estate transport on motor lorry service from Kottayam to Mundakayam and the condition of that road last year had rendered the maintenance of a regular and adequate motor transport service very difficult. But the lorries themselves were being taxed very heavily. The Member said that, including toll and

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